different Courts/Tribunals, moving petitions before Courts and other appellate authorities for early hearing and constitution of the Tax Arrear Recovery cell with the objective of overseeing, coordinating and monitoring recovery of arrears.

Lack of Security in Printing Press at Mysore

651. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been irregularities and lack of security in printing press at Mysore; and

(b) if so, what corrective action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. However one instance has been discovered in recent times in which a packet containing 10,000 pieces of Rs. 500/- denomination banknotes amounting to Rs. 50 lakhs was found missing in the consignment dispatched from the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Pvt. Ltd. (BRBNMPL) Press at Mysore to RBI, Thiruvananthapuram in July, 2004. This was detected by RBI, Thiruvananthapuram. The cases was handed over to CBI for investigation. The CBI has apprehended a CISF constable and an amount of Rs. 29.60 lakhs has been recovered from his possession.

(b) BRBNMPL has taken further necessary steps to plug all loopholes observed/reported by various internal/external authorities in the procedures and has revamped the security set up in the Mysore Press.

Raids on Share Brokers

†652. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of share-brokers raided by the Income Tax department during the months of September, October and November;

(b) the extent of illegal assets unearthed during the raids; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the action taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Income Tax Department has conducted Search & Seizure operations in the case of four (4) share brokers and three (3) sub-brokers in the month of September, 2005. No search and seizure action was conducted in the case of share brokers during the month of October, 2005 and November, 2005, upto 23rd November, 2005.

(b) During these operations, total assets worth Rs. 87.09 lakhs have been seized by the Income Tax Department.

(c) The action taken by the Income Tax Department in these cases consists of investigations/enquiries as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act. As a result of post-search enquiries and investigation, additional undisclosed income of Rs. 1479.87 lakhs has been admitted by these groups.

Theft of Stamp Papers in Transit Through Railways

653. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the aggregate of the reported cases of loss/thefts of the stamp papers in transit through railways during 1995-2000 were over Rs. 25 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the loss of stamps in transit during 1993-2003 for Assam is worth Rs. 146.66 crores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action was taken and against whom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The aggregate of reported cases of loss/thefts of stamps duirng 1995—2000 is Rs. 25.09 crores.

(b) No, Sir. The cases of theft/loss reported from various consignees of the State Government of Assam during 1993—2003 amount to Rs. 8.29 crores only.